

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAA-01
/113 R

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APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
AF/W:RHOUEK
PM:RERICSON

-----018843 291904Z /45

R 291826Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MO US

SUBJECT: U.S. ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO

1. IN COURSE OF A DISCUSSION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, ALGERIAN
CHARGE ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE, AS HE ALLEGED HAD BEEN
REPORTED BY JEUNE AFRIQUE (ISSUE UNKNOWN) THAT MOROCCAN
AIR FORCE COMMANDER HAD BEEN IN U.S. FOR DISCUSSIONS ON
PURCHASES OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. AFTER BEING INFORMED THERE
WAS NO BASIS TO JEUNE AFRIQUE ARTICLE, CHARGE ASKED IF
THERE HAD BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR
U.S. PLANES AND HELICOPTERS. IN RESPONSE, HE WAS TOLD
THERE WERE SOME NEW ELEMENTS BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
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POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THESE WITH HIM UNTIL DEPARTMENT HAD HAD
AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM CONGRESS OF THESE NEW ELEMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS ON WHICH WE INTEND TO DRAW
IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE ONCE CONGRESS IS INFORMED OF THE
RESULTS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS' TALK WITH KING
HASSAN.

-- THE F-5 AIRCRAFT WHICH MOROCCO HAD DEPLOYED IN THE SAHARA HAVE BEEN REASSIGNED ELSEWHERE.

-- THE U.S. HAS INDICATED TO MOROCCO THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF AMERICAN ORIGIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF MAURITANIA, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN DEFENSE ACCORD, IF THIS IS THE WISH OF BOTH PARTIES.

-- THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER A MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR THE PURCHASE OF COBRA HELICOPTERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MOROCCO.

-- THE U.S. MAINTAINS ITS POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SAHARA DISPUTE AND HAS NOT RECOGNIZED CLAIMS TO SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AREA. THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO SEEK A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THIS CONFLICT.
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